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MILITARY TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

BY BRIGADIER-GENERAL W. H. COTTON, OFFICER COMMANDING
WESTERN ONTARIO.

[Delivered on Saturday, March 27, 1909, before the Teachers of the Public Schools and of the Secondary Schools and Colleges of Toronto.]

Colonel Merritt, (the chairman,) addressing the meeting in opening drew attention to the objects of the Canadian Military Institute, and also referred to the museum and library which has just been added.

Colonel Merritt, continuing, said he would like on this occasion to take the opportunity of notifying all present of the lecture to be given on the 12th of April by him.

"I have collected together the military histories of the world to show by comparison what we might do in Canada. Most people have an idea of what we are doing, and it is by reviewing what is done in the rest of the world we might be helped to form an opinion of what would be the best to safeguard our own country. Now I allude to that because events seem to move very quickly, and we have been profoundly stirred just lately about debates in the House and explanations by Ministers, and the munificent gift of Lord Strathcona has, as it were, struck the chord which should vibrate through us here this morning. I would draw your attention to the statement Lord Strathcona makes. He says: 'I am particularly anxious that the special value of military drill, including rifle shooting for boys, should be constantly borne in mind.'

"Instead of patriotic people moving in the matter of our own defences, it has rested with a private citizen to do what a patriotic people should have done long years ago, and which was to some extent started by our forefathers, but has been allowed to lapse.

"What do we hear from the *London Times*? The *Times* welcomes the gifts of the Colonies, but says that the best use to which these gifts can be applied is in strengthening the defences each in our own quarter. Co-operation in that manner will form the truest form of co-operation in the end. I take it from what Lord Strathcona has said that his gift is meant, or should be taken to mean, the very commencement of what is to be done. I hope this is the spirit the gift will be taken in, and that we will have, what we have not now, a comparatively safe Canada. I believe we are at present living in a fool's paradise. A strong Canada, able, ready and willing, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa the same, all with facilities for protection and co-operation, will make it possible to have a solid, welded Empire."

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GENERAL COTTON'S REMARKS.

My object in asking you to meet me here to-day was to run over the existing regulations governing the formation and drill of young boys and young men in the schools, colleges and universities, and to discuss points not clear in their conduct and relation to the Militia Service. It therefore follows that my remarks are not in any sense a lecture, but are meant to invite discussion in order that more connected methods may be observed and a system established where none exists.

It is only of late that the nation has become keen to questions of defence and are determined to give serious consideration to proposals following these lines and towards the establishment and maintenance of a citizen army.

GENERAL AIM OF MILITIA DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL ORDERS.

February, 1909.

Headquarters, OTTAWA, 1st February, 1909.

PHYSICAL TRAINING AND MILITARY DRILL IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By an Order in Council of the 13th August, 1908, the agreement entered into between the educational authorities of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Minister of Militia and Defence respecting physical training and military drill in all public schools of that Province was ratified, and, by a further Order in Council of the same date, sanction was given to making the proposals specified in the agreement with the educational authorities of Nova Scotia applicable to the other Provinces of the Dominion, subject to such modifications as may be agreed upon.

The Orders in Council above referred to read as follows:—

The Minister of Militia and Defence submits the following synopsis of proposals entered into between the educational authorities of the Province of Nova Scotia and himself respecting physical training and military drill in all public schools of that Province:

The Provincial educational authorities have, on their part, undertaken:—(a) To enforce more generally their regulations respecting physical training and military drill in all public schools. (b) To adopt, for the future, a system to be uniform with that of the other

Provinces of the Dominion and of Great Britain suitable to the age and sex of the pupils. (c) To encourage the formation of cadet corps and of rifle practice among boys who are old enough to attend the high school. (d) To require, before granting a teacher's license of higher grade than the 3rd class, a certificate of competence to instruct in physical training and elementary military drill, such certificate (grade "B" Military), to be issued after the examination of the candidate by the Department of Militia and Defence.

As regards (d), these certificates will be issuable to teachers of either sex. There will also be issued a grade "A" (military) certificate, which will represent competency to instruct in both physical training and advanced military drill, including rifle shooting. This certificate will be issuable to male teachers only, upon their passing a satisfactory examination after a course of instruction carried out at or under the supervision of a military school of instruction.

The Minister has undertaken, on behalf of the Dominion, to provide: (a) Competent instructors at convenient places and seasons in order to enable teachers to qualify themselves to carry out physical training and military drill:

(b) The payment of a bonus annually to every qualified teacher who actually imparts this instruction, provided he makes himself eligible therefor by becoming a member of the militia.

The bonus referred to in the foregoing paragraph shall be paid only upon the certificate of an inspecting officer of the militia that the instruction imparted was satisfactory.

The amount of such bonus and the minimum number of boys necessary to form a corps, upon the instruction of which the amount shall depend, will be as may be hereafter determined.

(c) To supply belts, caps, (if desired), and a proportion of the arms and ammunition; also drill books for the more advanced training of the cadet corps.

(d) To prepare a syllabus of the work required to be done by a school or college cadet corps, in order to entitle the teacher to the annual bonus and to conduct the necessary examinations.

The Minister recommends that the proposals for the carrying on of physical training and military drill in the public schools of the Province of Nova Scotia, as outlined above, be approved.

The Committee submit the same for approval.

On a memorandum dated 6th August, 1908, from the Minister of Militia and Defence, recommending, with reference to the promotion of physical training and military drill in the public schools of the Province of Nova Scotia, that the said proposals may be made applicable to the other Provinces of the Dominion, subject to such modifications as may be agreed upon.

To carry out these views as to physical training and military drill it becomes necessary to form the pupils into classes. From these classes are to be established cadet corps.

Cadet corps, again, are of three classes:—

(a) Those in attendance at schools and colleges under Government control.

(b) Pupils at schools or colleges not under Government control.

(c) Those composed of lads who, with their parents' consent, prefer to join a corps not connected with any educational establishment.

The elementary portion would be composed of young people in the schools too undersized to carry a rifle or undertake drill classes, but to whom purely physical exercises in their different stages would be of incalculable benefit.

The next portion would be formed from boys more grown and from the older boys of colleges. These latter to be drilled and permitted to carry on rifle practice under prescribed regulations and supervision.

Cadets will commence as *recruits*, and having attained a fair standard of efficiency in the subjects laid down will be classified as *Trained Cadets*.

The Trained Cadets will be instructed in:—

I.—Target practice on the proper ranges.

II.—Infantry training.

III.—Signalling and field sketching.

Instructors for all of the above to be provided.

To distinguish between Trained Cadets and the recruits it is suggested that some well marked and distinctive badge might be worn. To obtain and wear this badge would be an incentive to proficiency.

UNIVERSITIES.

Leaving the elementary training in schools and colleges, we come to the universities, whose under graduates are more mature and capable of much physical endurance.

To provide officers for the militia and reserve of officers, an officers' training corps to be established in the universities is suggested, in order to give students a standardized measure of military training with a view to accepting commissions in the reserve of officers, or more directly in the active portion of the militia.

This is a serious undertaking and should, to assure success, form an obligatory part of the curriculum of the undergraduates. In this connection I might here read a report made by Lt.-Col. J. T. Fotheringham to the President of the University of Toronto and heads of colleges.

REPORT BY LT.-COL. J. T. FOTHERINGHAM TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND THE HEADS OF COLLEGES AND TO
THE COMMITTEE, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHING OF AN-
OTHER MILITIA UNIT IN THE UNIVERSITY.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honor to report that with the consent of the President I interviewed at Ottawa, on the 24th and 25th Feb'y last, the Hon. the Minister of Militia and the Chief of the General Staff:

I have to report as follows:—

I. These gentlemen, and indeed every member of the Militia Council, are in full sympathy with the project.

II. Both Queen's and McGill Universities are moving independently in the same direction at the present time.

III. The matter has been discussed at headquarters as part of the plans of the minister looking to the general introduction of physical training and drill into the public schools and other educational institutions of the country. It is his desire, that, if undertaken, it should be a part of the university's scheme of physical training for its undergraduates, and be thus supported by the authority of the university.

IV. The views of the military authorities are to some extent based upon the regulations of the Army Act of Great Britain as to officers' training corps at the British universities. They therefore contemplate the preparation of a set of regulations of which some of the main features may be:

(a) The giving to such university corps a status slightly different from that of ordinary militia units, as to availability for service in riots, etc., and liability or readiness for sudden duty during the vacation months.

(b) The corps to be maintained by an annual grant or capitation allowance, not by the ordinary militia pay; details as yet unsettled.

(c) Clothing, arms, equipment and accoutrements issued by Militia Department; details unsettled.

(d) Establishment to be settled later, but suggested basis of—

1 officer commanding.

1 major.

1 medical officer.

1 quarter master with hon. rank of captain, one of the under officials of the university, e. g., the Bedell.

1 adjutant, a permanent officer from Stanley Barracks, to take charge under O. C. of interior economy, drill and lectures in military law, discipline, etc. The course to be equivalent to a subaltern's course at a regular school of instruction and followed by examination

and a certificate entitling the holder to a commission in his local corps or other militia unit, without further qualification till next step in rank is given.

12 company officers, 3 to each of 4 Coys. of establishment, to be decided on later.

Drill instructors could be assigned as needed from the permanent troops at Stanley Barracks in addition to the usual N. C. O's of the unit.

(e) Drills and lectures to be arranged at hours consistent with academic requirements, by the O. C., who would, with most of the other officers, belong to the university and college staffs, all being graduates at any rate.

(f) Instruction, drill and efficiency generally, to be under control of A. G., as with regular militia units.

(g) Term of enlistment to be for three years, but terminable at once by any one leaving college at the end of his course, or taking commission in other unit.

(h) In Hansard for Feb. 8th, 1909, in response to questions asked by Lt.-Col. S. Hughes with reference to university drill corps, the Minister is reported as stating that in addition to arms, uniform, etc., the Government was prepared to furnish, under the usual conditions, caretakers and drill sheds and armouries for such units.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. FOTHERINGHAM, Lt.-Colonel,

P. M. O., M. D. No. 2.

This or a somewhat similar plan is under consideration in other Canadian universities, and is already established in Great Britain, at Cambridge, Glasgow and Edinburgh among others.

At Cambridge all those having influence over their fellows have both by precept and example striven to make the scheme a success. The rowing men have made themselves responsible for the field artillery. The cavalry squadron appealing to those who hunt or play polo. An engineering company is indebted to the engineering school.

The Cambridge contingent consists of—

- 1 battalion of infantry.
- 1 squadron of cavalry.
- 1 section of field artillery (2 guns).
- 1 company of engineers.
- 1 section of a field ambulance.

The University of Cambridge organized a field day, held about the middle of last month, at which about 2000 embryo officers, collected from different sources, attended.

TARGET PRACTICE.

Target practice consists of two phases:—

Gallery ammunition practice indoors.

Service ammunition practice on ranges.

At present the former is conducted in Toronto in the armoury and the latter to a limited and circumscribed extent by the University Rifle Association at Long Branch ranges.

The former can be much augmented if necessary.

As regards the latter, I will read instructions issued only as late as the 16th of the current month.

[COPY.]

CIRCULAR LETTER,
H. Q. 29, 1, 21.

OTTAWA, 16th March, 1909.

FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL,
CANADIAN MILITIA,

TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING,
WESTERN ONTARIO.

University Rifle Clubs.

SIR,—

I have the honour, by direction of the Minister in Militia Council, to state that the encouragement of rifle shooting by students of universities is considered of the utmost importance, and it is requested that you will make every effort to encourage the formation of rifle clubs in such universities as may be in your command.

The organizations should be formed in accordance with the regulations for rifle associations, including the signing of service rolls. Issues of arms and ammunition are allowed as to civilian associations.

It has been decided that in lieu of the care and maintenance allowance paid civilian associations a special grant may be made to university rifle clubs to cover the cost of markers and transportation (where necessary). Each case to be treated on its merits in accordance with circumstances.

Please cause such action to be taken as will bring this important matter to the attention of the authorities interested.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) F. L. LESSARD, Colonel,

Adjutant General.

That these conditions could be extended to senior Trained Cadets I have no doubt.

SIGNALLING.

Signalling is the means by which communication is observed between components of a force, or by means of which orders may be disseminated as may be necessary.

The means adopted are numerous, such as—

- Flag signals.
- Disc signals.
- Heliograph and lamp signals.
- Semaphore signals.
- Telephone signals.
- Telegraph signals.

The transmission of signals by projection of beams of light on overhanging clouds have been resorted to.

Signalling by flag and semaphore appeals strongly to cadets. The alphabet is easily and rapidly acquired by their quick and retentive memories.

A most excellent example of this exists in town by the Cadets of the St. Alban's Cathedral School, under the charge of Mr. M. W. Matthews.

All young men are fearless and capable bicycle riders, and a squad of such signallers so mounted would be of immense value.

It may be mentioned here that this address, if I may so call it, was outlined some time ago, and prior to the recent-war-scare-invasion-reports cabled us. You are all aware also of the munificent gift of Lord Strathcona towards this general object and communicated to the country within the last four days.

I submit the foregoing, Mr. Chairman, towards a furtherance of the object and in the hope that it may be criticised and discussed.

Professor Ramsey Wright, of the University of Toronto, then briefly addressed the meeting:

"May I be permitted to express the pleasure I have experienced in listening to the General's remarks? The Universities in the U. S. A. receive a very considerable grant in consideration of the fact that all their students are obliged to take a certain amount of military training. I think no one can exaggerate the importance in the matter of health and the good done to the young men who take this compulsory training. Professor Baker has urged that this should be adopted in our own Universities, and it seems to me that one of the best forms would be physical training and military drill, as alluded to by General Cotton. I shall hope that a very great deal of that drill be accomplished in the open air rather than in armouries, but

unfortunately our climate does not permit of this to a very large extent."

In concluding he moved that a vote of thanks on behalf of University members present be tendered General Cotton for his admirable presentation of the subject.

Mr. James L. Hughes, rising, expressed very great pleasure in seconding the vote on behalf of the Public School Cadet Corps. "I feel deeply indebted," said he, "to General Cotton for outlining to us the new scheme. We have had 34 years of experience with Cadet Corps in Toronto, and it has always been a matter of regret to me that after the boys were drilled and leave school there was no means of holding them together. I think the boys who have been our officers in the different Cadet corps should have special recognition from the Government and should be kept in training, and that the country should have the advantage of their service. We have at present 45 companies of fairly well drilled boys. We have six companies recognized by the Government as Cadet companies and have applied for four more, which has received the sympathy of General Cotton, thus we shall soon have ten uniformed companies.

"There can be no doubt that young men ought to be trained in military drill, and that training should begin in the Public schools, and, as in Australia, it should be made compulsory. Australia is therefore ahead of us in this respect, for they have made it compulsory throughout the country to have regular training in the schools. The munificent gift of Lord Strathcona will lead people to pay more attention to this work now, and I trust the Ontario Government will consider the question of compulsory training throughout Ontario. I think it would be advisable for the Canadian Military Institute to meet the Government with regard to a movement in that direction. There is no doubt that the training in youth is easily acquired and is much enjoyed by them. In Toronto, where we have so many foreign lads, I am sure the quickest and best way we can make them respect the British flag is to march them through the streets in uniform and behind that flag.

"I am glad to tell you that the young men of our staff have one of the best Rifle Associations in the Dominion, and intend to make it the best. I hope that our graduate boys who have left the public schools, and who were leaders in Cadet Corps work in the schools, may be induced to keep up their rifle shooting. I also trust that something will be done to organize the boys when they leave school until they are old enough to enter the regular Militia regiments.

"We are also considering the question of organizing Bands in different parts of the city to lead the different companies, and we hope to get a number of citizens to help us in this respect.

"We shall be very pleased to accept whatever can be done for us through the gift of Lord Strathcona. I take great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to General Cotton for his admirable address today."

Professor Baker, of the University of Toronto, said: "When this question of University training first came up my own notion was an University Battalion. It is within the recollection of some gentlemen who are present this morning that the old University company was useful in this respect. I feel that what seems best to General Cotton and the military authorities is likely to be the best in the interests of the country."

"Now, let me say that in order to make a success of this matter as far as Universities are concerned it is necessary for the University authorities to pass a regulation that physical training is to be demanded of every student, and permit military training to be optional. I myself do not see why the University authorities should not at once approach the question and see that military training is exacted. I do not think religious scruples would interfere. Take the case of the Quakers, while they might perhaps object to the military training, they would not object to the physical training which would be involved."

"I think there will shortly be a movement from a section of the University that will carry a great deal of weight, i. e., the Medical Faculty, recommending that physical training should be a necessary part of every student's preparation. To my mind this is more important than their training in Mathematics and Latin. I am willing to sacrifice time devoted to these in order that they may get military training, and I have no doubt others are prepared to act in the same way. Thus, we shall have no difficulty, I think, in introducing the system so carefully outlined by General Cotton."

General Cotton: "I would like to say that I am entirely responsible for the notes. I did not go so far as to suggesting compulsory military training, but I did suggest obligatory physical training. I am quite in accord with your ideas on those subjects."

Professor Lang, continuing the discussion: "My opinion on the subject of physical training tally with Professor Baker's, perhaps going a little further. I am glad to say that we have already some 80 to 100 students at the University undergoing an engineering course. General Cotton's predecessor expressed to me great satisfaction in the way in which these fellows were taking out commissions. A Rifle Association, which has been carried on in connection with the University, has been worked up into a state of efficiency at least equal to any Rifle Association in Canada."

"I think it is the opinion that we heartily endorse everything

that has been said in that we approve of some kind of physical training in Universities, Colleges and Schools."

Prof. Needler, of the University of Toronto, said that he thought he was voicing the opinion of most of those present in saying that they should have the gist of what is proposed to be done in printed form. "I should like very much personally to have the whole address of General Cotton in print, to be able to consider it. I feel that when we leave this meeting many of us will perhaps not have so definite an idea as we should like. With reference to the University of Toronto Rifle Association, of which I am Captain, I may say that this Association has been the means by which several hundreds of our students have received firstclass training in rifle shooting. In the members of the Rifle Association at present there are a great many of the undergraduates who are interested in the rural corps. In this way the Rifle Association is furthering to a certain extent the same service that old "K" Co'y, Q. O. R., served in days gone by. I feel that it only needs the slightest encouragement on the part of the Government and the University authorities to launch this scheme of University corps. There are over 1,000 male students, and to-morrow, if the scheme were launched, the corps would be more than filled. I think we are all agreed that this is an opportune moment to launch such a scheme and get it under way."

Mr. Ritchie, Principal of Wellesley St. Public School, said he was once a delicate boy in a public school in Toronto, and had physical training and military training. He belonged to old "K" company and was asked to take a position in a rifle company at time of rebellion in the North-West. He thought, with Inspector Hughes, that military training would be one of the greatest things that could be done for the young boys of this city.

Prof. Ellis of the University of Toronto, followed: "Ever since the time I entered the University Company I thought it might be made a training school for officers of the army. In combination with this training school we might well have compulsory, I think, but, at any rate, optional enrollment in the corps, so that military drill should be an optional subject. I think that this particular form of training might extremely well be made to fit in as an option in the University curriculum, so that it may count towards examination. I think it only requires the action of the authorities, and this plan, as outlined, might go into force and be successfully carried out to-morrow."

Captain W. Michell, Classical Master, Jarvis St. Collegiate Institute, spoke as follows: "As an officer in the Militia, and one who has been instructor in one of the schools, I think possibly I might say something that would be of interest. The University

scheme proposed would undoubtedly be successful. In the high schools and public schools military training to be successful must be popular. Mere infantry training will not be entirely popular; there must be facilities for rifle shooting. At present we are given a certain amount in the armouries. I think the first thing necessary is to provide easy facilities for outdoor shooting. In every town or county, at least, in the country there should be an indoor range. If the schools of Toronto have to use the Long Branch Range that must be made more extensive. A boy or man must give up the greater part of the day to go there and shoot in the afternoon, when so many others are waiting to shoot. This is too much to expect of the average boy. Our boys must be taught to shoot, and I think smaller ranges should be provided, possibly 400 yds., near the city, that boys could leave the school at say 3 o'clock and go out and have an afternoon's practice. That would make up for all the hardships (if so called) of strict military training. I think this the most important feature in connection with the whole scheme; to make it successful we must give the boys rifles and show them how to use them."

General Cotton: "The question of increasing the Long Branch Rifle Range is under consideration. The long range of modern fire arms necessitates going far afield to ensure safety."

Prof. Lash Miller said he thought 200 yard ranges could be obtained very cheaply, and that if such range could be obtained, say in the neighborhood of Rosedale, the men would do much more shooting.

Mr. M. W. Matthews, Principal of St. Alban's Cathedral School, said he cordially supported the remarks made by Capt. Michell with regard to rifle shooting. "I know it has been a great pleasure to the boys to go to Long Branch rifle ranges, but the great objection is the time taken and the expense. It costs the boy his fare and then we have to pay \$1.00 each for markers.

"With regard to our own school, next year we hope to have a range of our own in the Humber Valley. We are going to get a range up to 500 yards properly constructed, and the idea has just struck me that we might utilize it for the others if it could be worked."

General Cotton said he would arrange for the survey of this rifle range free of any expense.

Inspector Hughes said that this suggestion seemed a very excellent one. He had been examining the Don Valley, as he felt we must have some place where the boys could get out after school hours and practise. As the last speaker had said, we might make a combination or get one range east and one west. Perhaps the Government might assist us a little in fitting the ranges up.

Col. Merritt said he thought the Government should pay for them entirely.

Prof. Needler: "Those of us who have been in Germany, Switzerland and other countries know that it is very easy for citizens to get rifle practice, which is considered a pastime. There they can go out and shoot to their heart's content with very little expense, and the same should be made to apply here.

"I have very great pleasure in moving the resolution, and think something practical ought to come of this meeting, and trust this may be one of many meetings to accomplish the purpose we have in view.

"I move, seconded by Mr. James L. Hughes:

"That this meeting of educationists in the City of Toronto has listened with pleasure to General Cotton's address on military training in Schools and Colleges and Universities, and is of the opinion that the adoption of compulsory physical training, including military drill, would be of great benefit to the youth of the country, and would qualify them for effectively doing their duty as citizens."

On motion the following committee was selected to complete the arrangements for carrying out the objects as set forth in the resolution: The President, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hamilton Merritt; Professor Alfred Baker; James L. Hughes, Chief Inspector of Public Schools; Professor Lang; Professor W. Lash Millar; the Librarian, Mr. J. S. Carstairs.